

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07
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/087 W

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R 041451Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9704
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0051

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: INDUSTRY MINISTER RESIGNS

REF: LISBON 8565 (DTG 131727Z DEC 76)

SUMMARY: INDUSTRY MINISTER WALTER ROSA RESIGNED JAN 3
FOR "FAMILY REASONS." PLANNING MINISTER SOUSA GOMES
HAS ASSUMED THE INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO ON AN INTERIM BASIS.
THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLANNED TO REPLACE ROSA SHORTLY.
END SUMMARY.

1. ROSA OUT AS INDUSTRY MINISTER: PRIME MINISTER SOARES
ACCEPTED JAN 3 THE RESIGNATION OF INDUSTRY MINISTER
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WALTER ROSA. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ROSA,
WHOSE SON WAS RECENTLY ARRESTED FOR BANK ROBBERY,
RESIGNED FOR PERSONAL REASONS. PLANNING MINISTER
SOUSA GOMES WILL HANDLE THE INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO ON
AN INTERIM BASIS.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TAKE OFFICE: LOCAL

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ELECTED DEC 12 TOOK OFFICE JAN 3 IN CEREMONIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. INTERIOR MINISTER COSTA BRAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SUBMIT A BILL TO THE ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK DEFINING THE DUTIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.

3. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS RECEIVE INTERSINDICAL: AS PART OF ITS OFFENSIVE AGAINST GOVERNMENT LABOR MEASURES, INTERSINDICAL REPRESENTATIVES MET JAN 3 WITH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MEMBERS LTC PEZARAT CORREIA AND CDR ALMEIDA E COSTA TO URGE THE RC TO DECLARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL RECENT LEGISLATION ENDING AUTOMATIC UNION DUES CHECKOFF (REFTEL). RC MEMBERS MAJ VICTOR ALVES AND CDR VICTOR CRESPO MET SEPARATELY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERSINDICAL-AFFILIATED METALWORKERS UNION WHO PROTESTED THE FREEZE IN THEIR COLLECTIVE CONTRACT. THE RC, ANTICIPATING PROTESTS AGAINST THESE MEETINGS, CITED THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS SANCTIONING CITIZEN PETITIONS TO ORGANS OF SOVEREIGNTY.

4. CDS MAKES PUBLIC PITCH FOR PS-CDS COOPERATION: CDS VICE PRESIDENT AMARO DA COSTA, IN CDS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE PUBLISHED JAN 3, CALLED FOR A NEW "SOCIAL CONTRACT" BETWEEN WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS AND A NEW "POLITICAL CONTRACT" BETWEEN THE PS AND CDS. COSTA POINTED TO CDS COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN PASSING ITS ECONOMIC PLAN, AND ARGUED FOR AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PS AND

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CDS, "EVEN IF A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE MOMENT." COSTA ARGUED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE A SOLID IMAGE IN PORTUGAL AND ABROAD. COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" REACTED JAN 4 BY LABELLING "THE CDS WOOING OF THE PS AN OFFENSE TO SOCIALIST WORKERS."

5. COMMENT: ROSA'S DEPARTURE WAS PLANNED AS PART OF A MINOR CABINET SHUFFLE. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE INDUSTRY MINISTER'S PERFORMANCE WAS INADEQUATE. THE ARREST OF ROSA'S SON ONLY ADVANCED THE DATE OF HIS EXIT AND PROVIDED A CREDIBLE REASON TO INITIATE THE CABINET CHANGES. STRONG CONTENDERS TO REPLACE ROSA AS INDUSTRY MINISTER ARE ENG. ALFREDO NOBRE DA COSTA, STATE SECRETARY FOR HEAVY INDUSTRY IN THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT, ENG. JOSE TORRES CAMPOS, STATE SECRETARY FOR ENERGY AND MINES IN THE FIRST THREE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENTS FROM MAY 1974 - MARCH 1975, AND

ENG. CARLOS CORREIA GAGO, A 1973 IVP GRANTEE
NOW DIRECTING THE STATE-OWNED PETROLEUM FIRM,
PETROGAL. THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT THE
GOVERNMENT MIGHT RESTRUCTURE THE CABINET TO
ELIMINATE THE INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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